

NATIVE NEWS COMPILED BY DYANI BINGHAM

Montana Folk Festival accepting applications for First Peoples' Marketplace

The Montana Folk Festival, set for July 12-14 in Butte is accepting applications through March 31 from Native American artists and crafters who would like to show their work in the First Peoples' Marketplace.

Over the last five years the First Peoples' Marketplace has grown to be one of the largest showcases for Native artists in the West.

Any tribally affiliated artist in the region wanting to apply can visit the website, www.montanafolkfestival.com, for an application and guidelines they can print out and mail in to be considered by a jury of experts that will evaluate the applicants.

Among those who apply, those accepted by the jury will be invited to fill up to 19 slots at the 2013 Montana Folk Festival. If interested Native artists prefer, they can also call 406-497-6464 and provide a regular mailing address for an application and guidelines to be mailed to them.

The marketplace is made possible by a generous sponsorship from Seacast, Inc., a Seattle-based corporation with deep Butte and Montana roots. "Thanks to Seacast's major sponsorship and support, we can continue to invite Native American artists from throughout the region to apply to the juried craft marketplace to showcase and sell their work during the festival," said George Everett, executive director of Mainstreet Uptown Butte, one of the lead organizations developing the event. "We expect to attract tens of thousands of summer visitors from throughout the region and we hope that Native artists will see the opportunity to show their work at the event," added Everett.

Applications must be received by March 31, 2013 at Montana Folk Festival, Attn: First Peoples' Marketplace, PO Box 696, Butte, MT 59703.

Job opportunity posted by First Peoples Fund

First Peoples Fund (FPF) in Rapid City, SD, is seeking a mission-focused, seasoned, strategic and process-minded leader to help meet its growing needs. Under direction of and reporting to the president, the vice president of operations and programs will have both internal- and external-facing responsibilities, ranging from delivery of services, organizational development, administration and human resources.

The V.P. of Operations must be able to bring efficient and effective systems to increase the productivity and effectiveness of the organization, while also respecting and retaining the cultural values that are the heart of First Peoples Fund.

Founded in 1995, FPF's mission is to honor and support the creative, community-centered First Peoples artists, and nurture

the collective spirit that allows them to sustain their peoples.

Its vision is to communicate to the world the roots and philosophy of indigenous artistic expression and its relationship to the collective spirit of First Peoples. FPF strives to provide support and voice to the creative indigenous artists who share their inspiration, wisdom, knowledge and gifts with their communities.

This is a full-time position to be filled in FPF's central office in Rapid City. In 2013, FPF will have a satellite office in Minnesota's Twin Cities (Minneapolis/Saint Paul).

Education and experience: A master's degree is required, or equivalent demonstrated in programmatic operations leadership, administrative capability in the for-profit and/or nonprofit arenas, preferably dealing with economic/community development in Native communities.

To request a copy of the full position description, email info@firstpeoplesfund.org. Resumes may be submitted via email to info@firstpeoplesfund.org or by regular mail to First Peoples Fund, PO Box 2977, Rapid City, SD 57709-2977.

The position is open until filled and salary depends upon experience.

Montana Wyoming Native Arts Resource Manual is looking for artists

A new resource manual showcasing Native artists in Montana and Wyoming is being developed by the MT-WY Tribal Leaders Council. The manual will be used to promote Native artists and their works, and to educate and hopefully inspire consumers to support the Native arts in a more meaningful manner.

The Montana Wyoming Native Arts Resource Manual will be published and disseminated in March and April of 2013 and will be available at www.mtwytlc.org. Deadline for sending material is March 15.

Artists who want to be featured in the manual must be Native artists living in Montana or Wyoming, and be enrolled members of a federal- or state-recognized tribe.

Interested artists are encouraged to submit their name, name of business, contact information, medium, and jpeg image of their work to dbingham@mtwytlc.com by March 15.

Artists input needed for Native American Economic Development Survey

Currently, the Native American Development Corporation (NADC) is collecting data from American Indian communities. NADC provides technical and resource assistance to American Indian-owned business in the areas



Al Chandler Goodstrike was the recipient of the Heritage Award at the 2012 Western Design Conference in Jackson Hole, WY. His work was featured as part of the Montana Arts Council's Circle of American Masters at the show.

of capital, partnerships, marketing and federal contracting.

The information will be used to support NADC existing programs and those under development in an effort to improve assistance to Native American clients.

This is an opportunity to provide your input from an arts perspective. To take the survey, visit www.nadc-nabn.org.

SBA offers online business primer for Native American small businesses

The U.S. Small Business Administration launched an online tool that helps Native American entrepreneurs prepare for business ownership. "The Native American Small Business Primer: Strategies for Success" is a free online business course developed for Native American entrepreneurs that gives an overview of basic business principles and of the SBA's programs and services that help business owners get started.

The course is a business development tool for the entrepreneur's toolbox that emphasizes business planning and market research as essential steps to take before going into business. The course gives useful first steps to take, and includes a section on how to estimate business start-up costs that help assess the financial needs of starting a business.

The course is available from the SBA's Online Small Business Training web page under Online Courses for Starting Your Business at www.sba.gov/content/online-courses-starting-your-business.



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Top universities offer free online courses

Coursera is a social entrepreneurship company that partners with the top universities in the world to offer courses online for anyone to take, for free. College partners come in a mix of shapes and sizes, comprising state flagships like the University of Maryland at College Park, liberal-arts colleges like Wesleyan University, specialized institutions including the Berklee College of Music, and foreign institutions like the University of Melbourne, in Australia.

Classes offered on Coursera are designed to help students master the material by watching lectures taught by world-class professors, learning at their own pace, testing their knowledge and reinforcing concepts through interactive exercises.

Courses are available in a wide range of areas, spanning the Humanities, Medicine, Biology, Social Sciences, Mathematics, Business, Computer Science and many others.

A sampling of arts-related topics includes "Design: Creation of Artifacts in Society," Beginning Guitar, Introduction to Music Production, Songwriting and "The Language of Hollywood: Storytelling, Sound, and Color."

For details, visit www.coursera.org.

New MCAM members added (from previous page)

In her work, she explains the significance of cradleboards and dolls to Crow culture, helping students realize the connections among the Crow, Yellowstone Park and their own community. She also works with the Montana Historical Museum, the Office of Public Instruction and the Montana Arts Council, and has demonstrated beading at events like the National Folk Festival in Butte.

The Montana Circle of American Masters is a Montana Arts Council program designed to honor Montana's rich heritage and to showcase



Birdie Real Bird, bead worker

the present-day vitality of the folk arts. The traditional artists honored are allowed to place the MCAM label on their work, in addition to being honored in a ceremony at the State Capitol Rotunda.

They have the opportunity to teach their art through demonstrations and workshops and to share their knowledge and work in a number of ways, including on the MAC website. As funding allows, they also gain state and national exposure by having their work

photographically recorded and included in promotional venues.

For inclusion in this program, an individual must be a practicing visual folk artist and have a valid Montana address. This honor is not made posthumously and is made to an individual, not to a group.

Any Montanan who knows an eligible artist and wants to recommend him or her for inclusion in the Circle of American Masters is encouraged to visit the MAC website (art.mt.gov) and download the guidelines and nomination form. Nominations are gathered year-round with no deadline. The completed form is submitted for peer review, with the Montana Arts Council acting on that recommendation.

For more information about the program or for help in the nomination process, contact Folk Arts and Market Specialist Cindy Kittredge at 406-468-4078 or mtcreativearts@gmail.com.